



News Release from

**U.S. REP. NANCY JOHNSON
U.S. REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
U.S. REP. ROB SIMMONS**

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CONNECTICUT REPUBLICAN REPS. WIN BUDGET BATTLE

Johnson, Shays, Simmons Secure Additional \$7.2 Billion Commitment for Health, Human Services and Education Priorities for Connecticut Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last night Connecticut's Republican moderates Nancy Johnson, Christopher Shays and Rob Simmons won a commitment from House leadership to bulk up health, human services and education funding in the Congressional Fiscal Year 2007 (FY 07) budget resolution.

Under the agreement, negotiated with a bloc of other House Republicans including Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE), priority programs will receive an additional \$7.2 billion over the President's request in the FY 07 budget resolution, which passed the House by a vote of 218 to 210 early this morning.

"We fought and won a huge victory in this budget battle," Johnson said. "Now critical health, education and economic programs are protected from devastating budget cuts. This funding is essential to educating our children, making health care more accessible and affordable, strengthening our cities and creating jobs."

"This is a big win for Connecticut and a big win for moderates," Shays declared. "We protected programs that are crucial to Connecticut's urban areas - programs we have long supported. Fourth District residents most in need will be better served by this budget blueprint."

Simmons added, "This is a major victory for the families and children of Connecticut. I am proud to work closely with Reps. Johnson and Shays to ensure that this year's budget preserves vital programs like the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Moderate Republicans in the House stood firm on vital education and healthcare spending and in the end, won the support of House leadership for these essential programs. It's crucial that the House pass a budget resolution and I am proud that we were able to find a way forward that restores cuts in these important programs."

The agreement won by the group:

- Increased funding for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending by \$4 billion to \$141 billion;
- Created a reserve fund of \$3.1 billion for the Labor-HHS account;
- Received commitments that the additional \$3.1 billion in the reserve fund will not come from mandatory programs like Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, foster programs and drilling in the Arctic Refuge;
- Prevented a cut to Community Development Block Grants and Byrne Law Enforcement grants;
- Fully funded the American Competitiveness Initiative to support workforce development and math and science education; and
- Added language and won a leadership commitment that the Labor-HHS Conference Report will be \$7.15 billion above President's budget, \$3 billion higher than last year and higher than the FY 05 level.